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MUSEUMS & CULTURAL AFFAIRS

The City of El Paso Museums and Cultural Affairs Advisory Board (MCAAB)
Thursday – November 21, 2013 – 4:00 p.m.
El Paso Museum of Art, Larry Francis Board Room

MINUTES

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call.** Meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m.

Roll Call	Board Member	Present	Absent
	R. Katherine Brennand	X	
	Estrella Escobar		X
	Bernice Gregory		X
	Jeannine Kennedy	X	
	Ann F. Kruzich	X	
	Daniel Longoria	X	
	Steve Lujan	X	
	Marina Monsisvais	X	
	William Moody	X	
	Analinda Moreno	X	
	Susan Novick	X	
	Isela Ocegueda	X	
	Elia Perez	X	
	Carina Ramirez	X	
	Jane B. Thomas	X	

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Consecutive absences: Bernice Gregory (3rd)

Others present: Ben Fyffe, Julia Bussinger, Michael Tomor, Pat Dalbin, and Misty Castaneda.

2. **Call for Public Comment.** None.

3. **Annual Meeting Schedule.** Chair allowed members time to review the schedule, noting it was a point of information.

4. **Discussion and Action on Approval of Minutes for October 17, 2013.** Chair began by allowing members time to review the minutes of the last meeting. Marina Monsisvais moved to approve the minutes as submitted. Elia Perez seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.

5. **Discussion and Action on Election of Officers.** Ben Fyffe began by asking if there was any interest or self-nominations for the Chair position. Jeannine Kennedy asked Isela Ocegueda if she was interested in continuing as Chair, and Isela replied affirmatively but added she was not comfortable nominating herself. With that, Jeannine nominated Isela. Chair requested a motion to approve. Jeannine Kennedy moved to accept the nomination for Chair; Ann Kruzich seconded the motion; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.

Ben continued by asking if there was any interest or self-nominations for the Vice-Chair position. Marina Monsisvais nominated Jeannine Kennedy, and she declined. Katherine Brennand nominated Jane Thomas, and she declined. Katherine then nominated Ann Kruzich, and she declined as well. Katherine moved to nominate Elia Perez, and she accepted. Marina Monsisvais seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.

In conclusion, Isela Ocegueda was elected Chair and Elia Perez was elected Vice-Chair.

6. **Discussion and Action on Selection of Board Liaisons to Museum Facilities.** Ben Fyffe began by reminding members that when this board was formed, it was actually formed from four previous boards which included the board for the El Paso Museum of Art, an advisory board for the El Paso Museum of History, an advisory board for the El Paso Museum of Archaeology and an advisory board for the Cultural Affairs office. One of the things that was kept in place were the liaisons between this body and the three municipal museum

facilities. He asked if anyone was interested in serving as a liaison to the El Paso Museum of Archaeology in northeast El Paso, which is dedicated to the study of archaeology and the early history of this region prior to where the Museum of History picks up. Elia Perez volunteered to continue in her capacity as liaison to the Archaeology Museum, and Chair requested a motion. Marina Monsisvais moved to approve Elia's appointment as liaison to the El Paso Museum of Archaeology. Carina Ramirez seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.

Ben continued by asking members to appoint a liaison to the El Paso Museum of History, explaining that it was dedicated to the history of this region and has the great distinction of being one of our first major bond projects that went through our recent bond election in November. William Moody expressed his interest in serving as liaison. Katherine Brennand moved to nominate Judge Moody to serve as liaison to the El Paso Museum of History; Marina Monsisvais seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.

Ben noted that the El Paso Museum of Art is the oldest museum facility in the department, started in 1959 by ordinance, and also has an upcoming bond project with the addition of a café. Jane Thomas volunteered to continue in her capacity as liaison to the El Paso Museum of Art. Marina Monsisvais made a motion to approve Jane's appointment; Katherine Brennand seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.

In conclusion, Elia Perez was appointed Archaeology Museum liaison, William Moody was appointed History Museum liaison and Jane Thomas was appointed Art Museum liaison.

7. Museum Reports. Michael Tomor began by providing members with updates on three staffing vacancies at the El Paso Museum of Art; two Service and Security Workers and the Librarian Coordinator, which will be replaced with a Library Page position as the IMLS grant that funded the Librarian Coordinator has been completed. El Paso Museum of Art Foundation received a \$100,000 pledge over ten years and closed out a \$50,000 gift two and a half years early. Briefly discussed upcoming and current exhibitions, and programming such as *The Great American Songbook*, featuring Laura Tate Goldman. A retrospective of Chicano artist Gaspar Enriquez's work with about 70 of his pieces will open on January 25th, followed by a special presentation by Cheech Marin in February and an exhibition in honor of Luis Jimenez will open on February 9th in the Peter and Margaret deWetter Gallery. Mentioned that sculpture and media classes are still going strong. Michael provided a PowerPoint presentation on the Guggenheim Masterpiece Series, which will run from October 5, 2014 through October 2, 2016. The first exhibit will be Paul Cezanne and Pablo Picasso from October 5, 2014 through February 1, 2015, dealing with Cubism and its origins; the second will be Vasily Kandinsky and Franz Marc from February 4, 2015 through May 31, 2015, dealing with Expressionism; the third will be Albert Gleizes and Robert Delaunay from June 3, 2015 through September 27, 2015, dealing with Orphism; the fourth will be Marc Chagall from September 30, 2015 through January 31, 2016, showcasing a single masterpiece, *The Green Violinist*; the fifth will be Vasily Kandinsky at the Bauhaus from February 3, 2016 through May 29, 2016; and closing with Pablo Picasso from June 1, 2016 through October 2, 2016.

Julia Bussinger began by mentioning it was a successful fiscal year for the Archaeology Museum, with the Voladores de Papantla and the Jornada Mogollon conference attributing to that. The first Accession Committee meeting is scheduled for December 7th and there is still a lot of work to be done; almost the entire collection has been inventoried over the past year and a half. Julia thanked the Friends of the El Paso Museum of Archaeology, who performed a survey on the trails to clear unexploded ordinances after flood damage and noted that General Services is working with them on repairs to the trails. Julia continued to say there is bond money for the museum under museum improvements to expand the museum and install a new HVAC system, but a master plan needs to be created first.

Julia advised members that the new Curatorial Content and Research Coordinator, Everett Thomas, is coming from Baltimore, Maryland to work on the Touch City 3-D Digital Wall at the El Paso Museum of History, which will be the first of its kind in the United States. Interns from UTEP will be used to manage the thousands and thousands of images that will be collected as the core of the cityscape, plus the 3D image clouds and timeline. She provided brief overviews of museum lecture series, workshops and upcoming events, to include the Celebration of Lights on December 7th and a posada on December 19th. Julia concluded her reports by noting that the El Paso Museum of History will be celebrating its 40th birthday with a capital campaign, *Lead the Way Star Campaign*, in which stars will be sold for \$10,000 to \$1M to individuals, business and families and placed in a highly visible location at the museum in an area with the Touch City Wall, across from the baseball park.

8. Discussion and Action on El Paso Museum of Art Acquisitions. Michael Tomor presented some background on a piece by Oswaldo Segastegui, *'Identidad Geometrica'*, and proposed its accession into the permanent collection. Image provided for review via a PowerPoint slide. Chair requested a motion to approve the acquisition as presented. Katherine Brennand so moved; Susan Novick seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.

Michael continued by explaining to members that Members Choice is an annual \$30,000 gift from the Mabel O. Lipscomb Foundation that is restricted to the purchase of art, chosen by the membership. Museum curators determine a weakness in the collection that can be filled within the \$30,000 gifted by the Lipscomb Foundation. If there are any funds left over, it is used on other purchases throughout the year. Michael provided some background on each of four pieces to be a part of this year's Members Choice. The first piece by Demian Flores, is an acrylic on linen collage; the second piece by Francisco Toledo, is an oil, watercolor and mica on laser-cut

paper; the third piece by Dr. Lakra, is an ink and watercolor on vintage magazine; and the fourth piece is by Gabriel Orozco, an etching on gampl. Michael noted that the museum does not have any original works by any of these artists. Images were provided for review via a PowerPoint slideshow. Susan Novick moved to pre-approve the pieces for the members to choose from. Marina Monsisvais seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.

9. Discussion and Action on El Paso Museum of History Incoming Loan. Chair requested a motion to table item 9 indefinitely. Katherine Brennand moved to table item 9 until all documentation and information necessary is in order. Jane Thomas seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.

10. Discussion and Action on Selection of Board Liaisons to the Public Art Committee. Ben Fyffe explained that the Public Art Committee is a working committee that helps determine pace of projects, select artists and put together committees to help drive projects forward. Ben noted there are 3 positions available for liaisons and Jane Thomas, Jeannine Kennedy and Marina Monsisvais all expressed their desire to remain in their positions. Ben asked if there was interest from any other members, there was none, and Chair requested a motion to renew the appointments of Jane Thomas, Jeannine Kennedy and Marina Monsisvais as liaisons to the Public Art Committee. Katherine Brennand so moved; Carina Ramirez seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.

11. Discussion and Action on the Nomination of Gregory L. McNicol to the Public Art Committee. Pat Dalbin informed members that Gregory McNicol was nominated by Elizabeth Thurmond and has submitted his application and letter of interest to serve on the Public Art Committee. His background is in architecture and he is in charge of all the new construction and planning at UTEP. Members were provided with his letter of interest and resume (attached as part of these minutes) for review. General discussion followed and Jane Thomas moved to accept his nomination. Katherine Brennand seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.

12. Discussion and Action on Urban Planning Process Selection. Ben Fyffe explained that the City has decided to group the planning for the Multipurpose Cultural and Performing Arts Facility, the Hispanic Cultural Center and the Children's Museum together, to really think about them as an ecosystem, and think about maximizing our benefit in terms of being able to retain a major urban planner to think about this. All 3 projects are a \$205M taxpayer investment, and so by grouping them together we are looking at a more comprehensive approach in thinking about how they create connectivity, enhance each other and the landmarks around them, catalyze revitalization and economic growth, how we cross-pollinate audiences and programming between all three, and comply with smart growth principles. Ben further discussed process objectives, components and consultant selection. A PowerPoint presentation was provided for member review, and general discussion followed. Ben added that six firms submitted, four made presentations and we are now in contract negotiations with one. They are nationally recognized with a very strong history of planning and managing projects of scope much larger and smaller than what we are looking at. Chair requested a motion and Jane Thomas so moved. Carina Ramirez seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.

13. Discussion and Action on Selection of Children's Museum Facilities Planning Committee Liaison. Ben Fyffe explained that the Children's Museum project has gotten a lot of response from the community and we are at a point where a committee will be put together to help with the planning and steering of the project. They will be working diligently with the selected urban planning firm to engage with each other, stakeholders, and the community in terms of visioning and planning for the Children's Museum. He further added there would be a liaison needed from this board because this facility will enter into the roster of municipal museums that we are currently operating. Ben asked if there was any interest in serving on the committee, and Elia Perez moved to nominate Katherine Brennand. Marina Monsisvais seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.

14. Adjournment. Chair requested a motion to adjourn. Marina Monsisvais moved to adjourn; Jane Thomas seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 5:24 p.m. Next meeting scheduled for December 19, 2013.

Approved for content by:
Isela Ocegueda, Chair

Respectfully submitted by:
Misty Castaneda, Administrative Assistant
Museums & Cultural Affairs Department

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